# AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

*Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 3 of page 3 as follows:*

However, in such a situation, where a large number of distribution servers are competing for services on the WWW, music content sales will inevitably be monopolized by the major record companies, and distribution servers operated by independent artists will face an increasingly uphill struggle in their fight to obtain a share of the music content market. The root of this problem lies in the fact that the distribution servers of the major record companies can obtain a high profile by advertizing the URL of their Web site in the media, for example via television or magazines. As a result, the distribution servers operated by major record companies are accessed by a large number of users, to whom they can then sell music contents. Conversely, distribution servers operated by independent artists have little or no opportunity to publicise their Web site URL in the media. Therefore, such distribution servers have no ~~alternate~~ alternatively but to wait for users to access their Web site by searching the WWW using a title or artist name as a keyword.

*Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 22 of page 12 as follows:*

The following is an explanation of a content distribution system with reference to the drawings. FIG. 1 shows a structure for a content distribution system in a first embodiment. As shown in the drawing, this content distribution system includes distribution servers 101 to 108, a user terminal 109, a playback software supply server 110, a billing ~~service~~ server 111, and a reference server 112. The distribution system may contain a plurality of user terminals 109, but only one is described here for the sake of simplicity.

*Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 18 of page 15 as follows:*

The reference table holding unit 11 holds a reference table. The reference table is formed from a plurality of pieces of content management information 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,... as shown in FIG. 3A. Each piece of content management information is formed from, as shown between arrows y1 in FIG. 3B, a 'content-related phrase', 'content sale details', 'location information' indicating a network location

for one of the distribution servers 101 to 108, and 'playback software information' indicating a playback software corresponding to the relevant music content. The content-related phrase is formed from such information as a 'title' and an 'artist name', as indicated between arrows y2 in the drawing. The content sale details include, 'compression codec/number of quantized bits' indicating the compression method and playback quality level of the music content, and a 'purchase fee for playback rights ~~purchase price~~' required to playback the music content, as shown between arrows y3.